MoU between Centre and States for implementation of drinking water programmes

*332. SHRIMATI JAMANA DEVI BARUPAL:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Drinking Water Supply is trying to get all State Governments to agree to sign a Memorandum of Understanding;

(b) whether States have clearly been told that if they fail to sign MoU, Central Government will progressively reduce its funds and stop funding for World Bank; and

(c) if so, to what extent States have signed MoU and by when it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI RAGHU BANSH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (c) Para 4.2 of the Swajaldhara guidelines stipulates that in order to avail of funds under Swajaldhara, the State Government would be required to enter into Memorandum of Understanding of (MoU) with the Department of Drinking Water Supply, Ministry of Rural Development wherein the State Government would give their commitment to the reform principles in the water and sanitation sector. Each State Government is required to prepare a comprehensive vision Statement, Action Plan and agreed time frame for initiating and scaling up of reforms in the sector. The performance indicators laid down in the MoU are to be periodically reviewed by the Central and State Governments. Flow of funds under the Swajaldhara and Total Sanitation Campign would depend upon the performance of the State Government in relation to the agreed programmes. As per Para 4.3 of the Guidelines, Government of India is also to specify the system of incentives and disincentives for the State Governments.

Accordingly, Government of India have circulated a model draft Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to all the State Government in November 2003. The MoU will be a State specific document, to be prepared taking into account the local context, specific requirements of the sector-particularly in respect of system and source sustainability, water quality, and strengths and weaknesses of the institutional structure

in the State. The steps in the MoU process include preparation of the Sector Status Study, finalization of the State Vision Statement; preparation of comprehensive water and sanitation policy for the State; the Agreed Action Framework and signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Government of India and preparation of detailed Annual Action Plan by the State Governments. The final MoU will be prepared in consultation with the State Government and will include an agreed action framework for implementing the reform initiative in a time bound manner in the rural drinking water supply and sanitation sector. The State Governments have been told that the MoU will provide the framework for all funding arrangements with Government of India and also external support agencies. Access of the State Government to funding from external agencies like the World Bank etc. would be contingent of signing of the MoU.

Presently, the State Governments of Maharashtra, Kamataka and Andhra Pradesh have prepared the first draft of the Sector Status Study while other States have commenced action in this regard. The MoU will be signed only upon completion of the various steps in the MoU process indicated above and the implementation of the Agreed Action Framework will thereafter be monitored by independent monitors/supervisory mission.

Fall in Export of Cotton Textiles

*333. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is considerable fall in the export of cotton textiles in the last two years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to increase the export of cotton textiles?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) and b) As per available Directorate General of Commerce Intelligence